

The Newsletter of the Bisexual Network of the USA

Winter 1996

Creating Change 1995 ... From a Militant Bisexual View

by Brad Dent, Head Polecat, BILLISSTIC USA

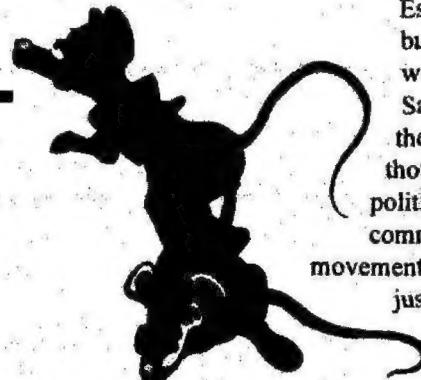
It was about damn time. After attending two previous and frustrating NGLTF Creating Change Conferences, I had little intention of going to Detroit for yet another batch of institutional biphobic garbage. The '94 CC in Dallas left me so enraged I came back into queer politics in North Carolina like a supernova, solidifying my militancy as a bi activist and moving from the coalition-oriented to the radical and aggressive. Detroit was utterly useless to me in this light, until I saw Elias in the flyer listed as a plenary.

Elias Farajaje-Jones was to be the first out bisexual plenary for the Creating Change Conference, making my intention to attend Detroit move in an immediate 180 degree direction. I had heard Elias speak at the '94 International Bisexual Conference during Stonewall and knew NGLTF probably did not realize how electrifying this would be to many of us in the national bi political scene. Elias sets people afire spiritually, always with a sweet intense flame. Politically provocative in everything he says, I knew Elias would not only be the crucible for bisexual attendees but draw non-bi participants to come to the belated conclusion that bisexuals have much to offer when included at the highest visible levels of this movement for sexual and gender liberation.

NGLTF had created a ripple effect of enthusiasm for bisexuals with Elias' placement as plenary. There were more workshops and visible presence coordinated by bisexuals at the CC than in

the past two years combined, with fifteen workshops, a bi caucus, bi social, a bi-sponsored petition effort to get NGLTF to change its exclusionary name, the Bi Grind fund raising dance plus Elias' plenary. Our visibility was also heightened by two conference display tables featuring BiNet USA, Anything That Moves Magazine, the Bi Youth Initiative, and BILLISTIC USA. BILLISTIC also coordinated a political action on Saturday to celebrate Elias' plenary: the "Biphobia Makes Us Blue" demonstration. Activists painted their faces blue and decked out in blue clothing to underscore bi visibility at this event and to reiterate that biphobia is a real downer. Non-bi folks also participated in the blue event, resulting in one incident reported by a gay man who stated he was verbally bashed by other gay male attendees for smearing blue down his arms to support bi politics. The intensity of Detroit was profound.

Elias sets people afire spiritually, always with a sweet intense flame. Politically provocative in everything he says...



Especially notable was the buzz created by the safer sex workshops conducted by the Safer Sex Sluts. If ever there were an example of the thought-provoking nature of political and social gifts the bi community brings to the queer movement, the Safer Sex Sluts were just that. Joined by transgender activists, Lani Kaahumanu and many other prominent bi activists demonstrated clearly the joys of safer sex practices from various gender angles and sexual sensibilities, leaving participants dazed and aroused. People were kicking themselves for not attending this "packed house" event after hearing the erotic

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BiNet News

The Newsletter of the
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Northwest Region:

Adam Wills & Vacant Position

Midwest Region:

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Pacific Coast and Islands Region:

Francine Turner & Vacant Position

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1996 DEADLINES:

Issue

Spring (May)

Apr. 1st

Summer (Aug)

Jul. 1st

Fall (Nov)

Oct 1st

Winter 97 (Feb)

Dec. 1st

Election Results!!!

The ballot's are in! This year's election had 4 candidates vying for three coordinator positions. All four were very qualified and well respected members of the bisexual community. This year's election we tried a new thing, in that we included a self addressed stamped envelope with the ballots. It was hoped that this would increase the amount of ballots returned. Well it certainly did work — over 40% of the membership returned ballots! This in contrast to

'93's ballot of 20% ('94 didn't have an election as we only had 3 candidates for 3 positions.) If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the ballot procedure PLEASE!!! let us know. This year's new slate of coordinators, who have agreed to take on this responsibility for 2 years are:

Stephanie Berger, Arthur Freehart and Alexei Guren. Congratulations to you all!

RANTING FROM THE EDITRIX

Hi Everyone!

That's right everyone... Heeee'ssss Baaaaaccckkkkk!!!! Yes, after having taken a bit of hiatus from around here when I took a new job, I am happy to report I will be returning as the editrix at large of the BiNet News. We have some changes, growth and direction we'd like the newsletter to take in 1996. And actually while I have your attention, how many of you like the name "BiNet News?" Sounds like you should have a teletype and some theme music running in the background while you read it. I would like to officially announce the "Name that Newsletter" contest. I will run the contest until the annual meeting, at which time we will announce the new name. The individual who comes up with the new name will receive a 2 year free membership to BiNet USA. The only rules to the contest: Be creative, and no, it doesn't actually have to have the word Bi in it. Do not send in: BiLines, Bi Ways, Bi tween the Lines, Bi Focal, Decidedly Bi, Switch Hitter, Slippery When Wet, or Anything That Moves. These are currently in use or have been for years tossed around by different Bi groups as newsletter names. No, what we want is something new and fun, we want a name that the newsletter can grow into, maybe even grow into a national magazine with... so think about it and when you come up with a gem, send it in. Who knows, you could be our next lucky winner, and besides think of the fame at the National Meeting when I keep saying your name every five minutes.

Now you've probably noticed that the newsletter has grown smaller than when I last did it. There is a very good reason for this: We do not have the money to make it any bigger. That's right, we are in a financial situation which causes us to be very budget conscious. I can no longer call Victor and tell him that "I have just created this incredible issue and oh, before I forget... it's also about 8 pages bigger than the last issue and it will cost just a teensy bit more." Victor had a very stern talking with me when I agreed to once again take over the editorship. Every other sentence started off with, "And if you EVER call me in the middle of the night with an over budget..."

So, you're probably asking yourself. How can I, an average bi person help! Well, it's actually quite easy. You'll notice first off, that the BiNet USA membership form is now an insert, rather than on the back cover. All the people who would renew and tell me how awful it was to chop up an issue, finally convinced me. You'll also notice that the insert has 3 BiNet News subscriptions on the back of it. Why are there now two, your asking yourself? Well, some people want to become members, and some just want to get the newsletter (maybe because their an organization or student group). What do you get as a BiNet USA member. Well, first off you get this incredible newsletter, that comes out 4 times a year. Yes, 4 times a year, I have even placed deadlines for all the 1996 issues on the inside front cover. You get any media alerts that are sent out, generally these are once a month or every other month. As a member you have voting privileges, and discounts to BiNet USA events as well NGLTF events since we're cooperating organizations. That means we've learned to play together... well sort of. If you get a subscription to the newsletter, well then you the newsletter! So make copies of these inserts, take them to your organizational meetings, events, send them to your friends, your school groups, in effect anyone you think should be getting this fine publication.

Also I'm looking for individuals interested in doing an on-going column(s) for BiNet News. Please send me your idea, as well as a sampling of your writing, and your contact information, so I can call and talk with you about it. If you don't want to make a huge commitment, I am always looking for people to send in articles, stories, poetry, photos (Gary has a scanner!), etc. All I ask is that you care about what you're sending. Cause if you don't care about it, don't write about it.

I hope you had a wonderful new year... now strap your self in, and read on... cause in 1996, things are going to get bumpy!

If you want to call or send me stuff, you'll find my phone and address on the Contact pages or you can e-mail me at: Alexei_Guren@msn.com



(Continued from page 1)

nature of the educational, how-to, hands-on presentations. Everywhere I went around the host hotel, I'd hear something about the bi and trans folks that "got all naked" to show you how its done with latex fun.

Transgender activists were out in force also, with the presence of Transsexual Menace, Transgender Nation, and the International ICTLE. Texas trans activist Phyllis Frye was one of several facilitators of workshops focused on transgender issues, many underscoring recent transgender victories on Capitol Hill and the thorough trouncing of our favorite transphobic, biphobic backward-ass national mono-queer machine, the Human Rights Campaign. Phyllis also linked up with BI-LISSTIC varmints to talk about linking trans and bi political activism to more aggressively confront the segregation of bi and trans folks from the "gay and lesbian" national groups who delete mention or attention to our communities. This project, titled "BAT", would hammer away at bi and trans exclusion perpetuated by gay and lesbian assimilationists.

All and all, I believe Creating Change Detroit was a real surprise for the militant types in the bi and trans communities. It was a pleasant change to have the inclusion in place and it was great to see our respective communities get it in gear to create a strong, visible presence amongst gay and lesbian activists. Not all was perfect... there were reports of bi and trans bashing by nasty mouths at various points and apparently NGLTF executive director Melinda Paras has a

couple of words she needs to get into her own mouth.

Hats off to NGLTF and especially Sue Hyde for really working hard to make the Conference right, making it truly inclusive. It was one of the biggest Creating Change's as far as attendance, so hopefully NGLTF has learned that inclusion has definite benefits. Its apparent too, that gay and lesbian folk walked away from Detroit genuinely affected by our presence and many will start really getting it. I

believe many of them came to realize that this is a movement much broader than the limited parameters of "gay and lesbian" dichotomous thinking.

*Note - you may notice the spelling of our organization shifts and changes, to reflect the fluid nature of sexuality, a radical concept often linked to progressive bisexual politics. BILLISSTIC members also adopt animal spirit identities generally considered to be varmints: annoying, troublesome creatures to monosexist forces that drain the progressive blood of the Queer Movement.



So Creating Change...

By Lani Kaahumanu

I can count on one hand the times I have felt movement in this movement of ours. When I say movement I mean MOVEMENT that you can feel, that you can see, that you can hear, that you can touch. When I say movement I am talking about the larger bisexual, transgender, lesbian and gay progressive movement(s) for equal rights and liberation. These moments of movement in my personal activism/organizing history are memorable and keep me going. The recent 8th Annual national Creating Change Conference for Gay Lesbian Bisexual and Transgender Movement was a strong 9.5. This was my fourth year attending the networking nirvana presented by National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). Ever since my first one I've recognized this conference as an venue for bisexual activists to build skills, expose ourselves (oh my), challenge people (including ourselves), put a face on bisexual activism, build friendships with activists from around the country and most especially an opportunity to get to know the local bisexual community. Well anyway that's what my initial hit was, or vision, or whatever it is that gets my organizer endorphins running.

Each year our numbers grow and each November right after the elections I look forward to my annual journey. This year 2,000 of us met in Detroit. Bisexuals were ubiquitous as were our transgender buds. This year our fierce bisexual brother Elias Farajaje-Jones blew the roof off the place during his Saturday morning plenary speech. He was channeling Sojourner Truth, and lord knows she was radical gender transgressor herself! We hit critical mass recognition and support from lesbian and gay people, especially the NGLTF staff. We ran workshops, sat on panels, facilitated dialogues, built our skills and spoke out and on Saturday morning The Brad Dent "Biphobia Makes Me Blue Action" gave us the opportunity to wear blue somewhere on our bisexual bodies and to make a statement. Face paint, scarves, glitter, clothing and someone even strapped on a big blue dildo. The NGLTF staffers have nicknamed the sex positive workshops "The Blue Dildo Workshops."

The conference wasn't without its biphobic dramas and public re-actions. I had a few myself, reactions that is. But all in all, there was an electricity, a sense of excitement and recognition that we are a movement made up of many movements that can work together and indeed are working together. I could feel the potential in the room. There was a new understanding, a shift of who the "we" was in that room. When I hear Executive Director Melinda Paras say "maybe its time to change our name" from the podium during the final plenary brunch on Sunday I know there has been a change.

Next year Creating Change will be held in Washington DC in the days following the election. I hope to see you there.

Is Bi Men's Community an Oxymoron?

commentary by Erich Steinman

At the recent BiNet Meeting in Minneapolis bi men gathered a caucus to discuss leadership in the bi community and bi men's roles in particular. I want to share a few of my thoughts and questions that were generated from that exchange.

Basically, where are bi men? Why does the organized community often look 70% female? And why is it so hard for bi men's organizations to survive in comparison to the flourishing bi women's groups in many cities around the U.S.?

Bi men's sexuality, self-identity and community are a fascinating frontier of understanding that is just beginning to be explored. While a number of books focusing on bi women or written by bi women have come out recently, there is a relative dearth of writing focusing on bi men.

Obviously for men in our culture being bi is a different thing than women being bi. The same but different. Many men theorize their sexuality in ways similar to many women - such as loving people, not genders, and so forth. But it has a quite different gendered meaning for men to explore bi behavior, claim the identity, and accept bi desires.

And identifying and organizing on the basis of a bisexual identity is a different political beast for and for women. Many bi men rely on privileges in other aspects of our lives and thus don't experience the bi community as a place to gather for liberatory empowerment. Bi women, however, seem to have made bi community a place of exactly such mutual empowerment.

In Minneapolis, although we barely scratched the surface, we had a juicy and meaningful discussion examining the challenges and lessons for bi men. I can't speak for others but being able to talk about these issues - long understood in my head but not often shared - with other bi men made it clear how much work we all have to do on our own liberation and self celebration.

As we excitedly shared insights and experiences, my mind kept asking the questions: Are we to have any organized Bi Men's community - locally, regionally, nationally? Why would we? What do we lose by it's absence? What do we gain by creating it?

In the end, I come back to thinking of the isolation that many of us have experienced. Bi Men's community is important because the bi men who are activists, who are involved in the bi community, often feel alone. We need support. If we need it, imagine the countless bi or bi-curious or bi-potential men out there who need visible bi men, who need to hear stories of other bi men, who need resources and information and reassurance from bi men.

And you know it's just a hell of a lot more fun and powerful if we can put our energies together as bi men. That's what I want. I want bi men's community. As we declared to each other as we wrapped up that discussion...we'll be in touch. See you in San Francisco.

Now Available

Bisexual Resource Guide

Robyn Ochs, editor

Contains:

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The Bisexual Resource Guide, published by the Bisexual Resource Center, is available for only US\$8, postage paid. To order YOUR copy, send a check, along with your address to:

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Regional News

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for you virtual reality bi's you can also e-mail:
wnaumann@unlinfo.unl.edu

(Editor's note: Wendy asks that whenever possible to send her stuff via e-mail.)



Northeast Region

Rifka is no longer a NE Regional Rep due to personal reasons. Kirstin is confirming with the alternate rep from New Hampshire if she wants to take this on. In October BiNet Vermont sponsored 3 workshops on Bisexuality at the Vermont Gay/Lesbian Rights Coalition's (VGLRC) Annual Town Meeting. The VGLRC has also asked BiNet Vermont to co-sponsor Elias Farajaje Jones who will be speaking in the Spring at a special forum. Kirstin, the regional rep, and a bi man from Nepal who is part of BiNet Vermont, were asked by VGLRC to be part of the Board's Diversity Committee. They are looking of diversifying in terms of ethnicity, race and sexuality and gender. A victory for all bi, trans and people of color!

BiNet Vermont is going strong with 80 people on their mailing list, a social committee and a basic plan for fundraising. Which we are hoping to have available for rural fundraising in other regions. Hopefully their fundraising efforts will be successful and we will see more rural northerners at the BiNet USA Business Meeting in San Francisco this August.

Southwest Region

Northwest Region

The NW Region has a new delegate: Adam Wills of Portland, Oregon. Adam is involved with the Portland Bisexual Alliance which sponsors both a mixed gender group and men's group. One of his projects for 1996 is a book of essay's about bisexual men, it is a work in progress and no deadlines have been set. There is still a vacant Delegate position available in the NW Region and it is hoped that someone in the Seattle area will volunteer to take the position until elections are held at the next Regional Conference.

After taking a 6 month hiatus, BiNet Seattle advertised it was having a community meeting. The meeting was called to see if there were individuals out in the Seattle area that were interested in resuscitating Seattle's only mixed gender group. This or to decide were or who it's treasury funds should go to. Well about 9 very enthusiastic individuals braved a snow storm to make it to that evenings meeting. It appears the patient will live! BiNet Seattle plans to have its first social March 2nd. Please call 206-728-4533 for more information.

Pacific Coast & Islands Region

Tri-State Region

Mid-Atlantic Region

Southeast Region

Midwest Region

Central Region

South Central Region

Get involved

now !!!

Contact your Regional Delegates

Letters:



Dear Editor,

I recently wrote letters to Loraine Hutchins and BiNet Membership, a copy of which may just be floating across your desk as I write this. Why would I send a letter requesting the acceptability or appropriateness of my becoming a potential member? In fact, you can thank Ms. Hutchins for the mere existence of this letter, because she was kind enough to send me a copy of the Fall '94 issue of BiNet News. Which I read cover to cover with much appreciation and introspection. So, I have some thoughts I'd like to throw out, regardless of my acceptability outcome. So, Before I commence with my personal philosophizing, I must lay the cards on the table, and say I am a transvestite a male heterosexual crossdresser (43), married to a wonderful woman who is moderately accepting. But that's another story. I must also disclose that I live in a predominately rural area that is socially backward; thus, I am very isolated. So now we come to my commentary. I can understand the difficulties you have, as bisexuals, with the gay and lesbian community. Because I do not relate well with straight men, nor to women whose lives revolve around male self-servitude, I've found myself very alone. Thinking I might find companionship, acceptance and friendship at a local Gay and Lesbian support group (there are no transgender support groups within 100 miles), I went to one of their, but not in drag. By the way, other than my voice I can pass easily; well the mannerisms could use some feminization. Anyway, in the very small and tightly knit group, the men saw nothing wrong with me; however, the assertive women could not accept me: to them, I was an abomination. Those women could not see past my male features, to my aspect, to my personal nature, to my mental and emotional core, that are certainly less male than they. So they found me unacceptable, by vote, because I wasn't gay; supportive of their cause or not. If you will pardon my poor recollection, I can't recall where the thought originate, but it

brings to mind the idea of thesis/antithesis. Whereas the straight majority sees themselves as the norm, as the thesis, Homosexuals become the antithesis. And in seeking their own identity, their own value, their own *raison d'être*, Homosexuals become the thesis and therefore, someone else becomes unacceptable, the antithesis: that's you, and me. So my question is, with heterosexuals on one extreme and homosexuals on the other, both of whom seem to think that there is no middle ground, no compromise, no other acceptability, where does that leave bisexuals and people like me, people who are not comfortable with total and complete allegiance or affiliation to either gender. Certainly, we are talking major differences here, between bisexuals and transvestites/transsexuals (who themselves have their own issues of unacceptance, believe it or not). Certainly, I don't mean to oversimplify, but it occurs to me, that bisexuals know who they are, but simply don't fit in a society that is more concerned with labels and role intimidation, than with individual expression. Tell me if the entire gender-role thing doesn't start at birth. Gender defines our primary being. Transvestites/transsexuals don't even know who they are or who they identify with. They see everyone else as the self-justifying norm, and themselves as outcasts. So, What I don't understand, is: if indeed there is a middle road, a point of equilibrium in the gender equation, why don't those people group together, work together? Am I missing something? I would like to know what grip you would have with me. Do you suppose that bisexuals and transsexuals may have more in common than with straights or gays? Maybe the man in a dress doesn't want to be a-man-in-a dress at all; perhaps he/she is seeking another level of self-awareness, another level of reality and self-acceptance than the one imposed by society or birth gender. Are my goals that much different than yours? To love, to learn about self, and to do it under minimal pain and social duress. I have lost friends and acquaintances because I am different. I have lost a job because I was caught in a dress by a coworker, who took the issue to management. I understand a lot. No, I am not a card-carrying member of any support group; I hold no weight with any crossdressing support group, I do not even know any other crossdressers, personally, although I have met a few; I am not well read in the field of gender or mental sexuality. But I know how I feel, and it occurs to me that as groups seeking support and social acceptance, yours and mine might have more in common than with straights or homosexuals. One more thought. All this talk about reaching out for social acceptance is, I believe, misdirected. I really don't think your association, your support group or mine, is going to change the mind of the masses. No, it appears from my experiences of rejection, unacceptance and disdain, that each person wants to be left alone with his or her own educated or uneducated beliefs, and not to have those beliefs challenged. I think real acceptance only comes about when a person feels loss, senses loss, or has lost personally, emotionally. (By the way, I couldn't help but add two poems to the end of this tirade) I feel that any amount of community outreach should not be directed at people who consider themselves normal. No, I think

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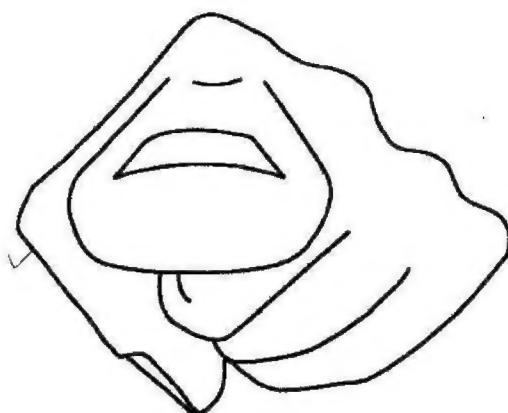
**STARTING A NEW GROUP OR WANT
TO KNOW WHERE THE NEAREST
GROUP IS???**

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IN *BINET NEWS*???**

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OR LOCAL ACTIVIST PROFILED IN
BINET NEWS???**

**CONTACT YOUR REGIONAL
DELEGATES...**

**HELP BINET USA
WORK
FOR YOU!!!**



PROFILES

ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS IN THE BISEXUAL COMMUNITY

This is the place to talk about your organization. How'd it start, what's it doing and where's it going? Share it's accomplishments, dreams and pitfalls. Individuals can also be profiled and they don't have to be a famous bi-activist either. Just a bi person who's story you think everyone everyone should know about.

Portland Bisexual Alliance, Portland, Oregon

PO Box 412, Portland, Oregon 97207
503.232.9275 or e-mail pdxbi@aol.com

The Portland Bisexual Alliance is a new organization whose primary focus is to foster a bisexual community in Portland, Oregon by providing people with a safe and open forum to discuss bisexual issues and the opportunity to meet others who share similar thoughts on the subject of sexual orientation. Like many gay and lesbian groups, our approach is one in which we view our sexuality as a sexual philosophy rather than an actual sexual practice.

We sponsor a mixed-gender and a men's support/discussion group for the general public and social events for our members. Our sister organization, the Portland Bisexual Women, sponsors a women's support/discussion group. Being in the public eye is a crucial aspect of the Portland Bisexual Alliance so that we can dispel the pervasive myths that surround our orientation.

Our newsletter, the Bridgetown Bi Times, covers national and local news that impacts our community, bisexual opinions and a calendar of upcoming bisexual events in the Portland area. We welcome free-lance submissions, poetry, photos, cartoons. Please send the to our address marked: "Attn.: Bridgetown Bi Times." We will exchange newsletters at no cost with any bisexual organization, but only with the understanding that we could reprint a particular piece of work in our own newsletter. We will credit the original author(s) and source though.

Another of our projects is a book of essays much like *Closer To Home & Bi Any Other Name*. We are looking for submissions from men, women, and anyone in between on the subject of bisexual men. An essay should cover only one topic and photos/poems should be centered around the subject of bisexual men. Please send your work or inquires to our address marked: "Attn. Men's Book."

If you would like more information about the Portland Bisexual Alliance or if your interested in any of our services/projects, please feel free to call, write or e-mail us.

(Continued from page 7)

your time and effort should be directed to anyone out there, who is unsure, who is alone, who is hurting, because they feel different, and are so afraid of being the only one. Well, I've only received one issue of your newsletter, although I've gotten several from Renaissance, a support group for TVs, and from a couple of support groups for the spouses of TVs. I have no idea how much you or your constituency know about transgenderism. But I will express one more supposition. I believe strongly, that if I'd have married a bisexual, I'd have found more support and acceptance, less trepidation and insecurity, less rejection, far sooner in my life. Please correct me if you thin I'm wrong. Lastly, I want to say that from my personal perspective, the line in Debra Ruth Kolodny's column entitled Monogamy, Shmenogamy (Fall 94 Issue), in which she refers to her chosen male companion's spiritual, mental and emotional qualities, among which his ability "to express his womanness without reservation" to be heartening, refreshing, and deeply moving, from my point of view.

Respectfully,

Steven H. London, a.k.a.: Suzanne
Bartonsville, PA

Editrix's Reply

Hi Steven/Suzanne,

Thanks you for your letter, it was a wonderful reminder that so many of us in the US are without any support systems to turn to or count on when we need them the most. Yes, you are more than welcome to become a member of BiNet USA. Also there are (2) Regional Delegates that serve your area. Please check the contact section in this issue and give either Steve or Marcella a call. They might also be helpful in getting or finding out some information on some local/regional/national transgendered organizations for you as well.

In your letter you ask if the Transgendered and Bisexual community are or should be allied. They are... and for many of the reasons you stated. Both of our communities redefine gender and sexuality in ways that sometimes makes our straight/gay brothers and sisters a bit... how should I say... antsy, if perhaps not queasy?

I'm not sure if you have a copy, but the Spring 94 Issue had several articles on Transgender Issues. Please feel free to call or write if you don't, and we'll dig up a copy for you. Take care and we here at BiNet News wish you well...

Editrix's note: Some of Stevens/Suzannes poetry appears in this issues poetry section.

In a whirlwind of political and media direct action, members of the National Bisexual Youth Initiative (BYI) made major strides recently by confronting key players on and off Capitol Hill on September 19th and 20th. BYI National Coordinators Penelope Williams (New York, NY) and Robin Contento (Seattle, WA) along with Non-Youth Liaison Brad Dent initiated in-your-face bi activism during recent efforts with the National Advocacy Coalition on Youth and Sexual Orientation in Washington DC, and the "Oprah Winfrey Show" in Chicago. Williams and Dent were able (in less than 24 hours) to confront Elizabeth Birch of the Human Rights Campaign Fund (HRCF) about her organization's blatant failure to include bisexuals and transgendered language and involvement into the efforts of HRCF. When Dent and Williams confronted her, Birch suggested "a big meeting" needed to be held to come up with a singular term to describe all of the queer communities demanding inclusion in title, print, and policy. Dent suggested Birch think hard about "queer" but (regardless) had to get the monosexist thinking out of HRCF's efforts and to get over the transphobia which has severely embarrassed HRCF as of late. Next stop, next day was a visit with Marcia Scott, Special Deputy to Political Affairs and serious confidante to Bill Clinton.

Ms. Williams was focused and fierce and other

and a therapist?", "How do you spell the name of the Clinic that employs you?", "Does this clinic operate on any federal funds?", and "What do you really mean by Initiative when you say you represent the Bisexual Youth Initiative?". Seeing that the legislative focus originally intended for the meeting was useless, Dent fired back that his parents, who had voted for Helms in the last four elections, would not be voting for him in the next election because he had come out as bi to them three years ago. As blood rushed to her face, Kohl abruptly ended the meeting.

Dent's employer has received a call from the Senator's office, mistakenly assuming he was not out at work. Although there have been minor indications of biphobia, no further

"BI YOUTH THUMP JESSE HELMS, ELIZABETH BIRCH, OPRAH AND THE WHITE HOUSE (IN LESS THAN 24 HOURS!) The National Bi Youth Initiative On The Move

A Review by Brad Dent

youth activists pushed Scott to say the "b" word. The White House did say "bisexual" thereafter, when referring to the overall queer community.

A few hours later, Williams and Dent met with Karen Kohl, staff person to none other than Senator Jesse Helms in Helm's office. Kohl stated Williams and Dent were the first "acknowledged" bisexuals ever to meet with Helms' office. Then the fur flew. Kohl disregarded any attempt for Williams or Dent to address issues about Helms' statements on AIDS funding, Ryan White Care Act, death threats the Senator launched at Bill Clinton and targeted Dent as a resident of North Carolina. Kohl's questions included "Do you have access to young children as a bisexual

issues have surfaced with this harassment.

The following morning, Contento and

Dent appeared on the Oprah Winfrey Show, featuring bisexual people as the show topic. Contento and other bisexuals confronted Oprah about her own biphobia and ignorance of bisexual issues, resulting in her statement "I get it!. Okay, I get it now!". The most striking part of the show was the explicit nastiness from gay men and lesbians in the audience, who made statements like "Bisexuals should only date their own kind" and "All bisexuals do is break gay men's hearts and undermine biological theories of sexual orientation.". Boo hoo. Surprisingly, many heterosexuals and gay musician Boy George stated they all understood biphobia a little better after the homosexual tirades and underscored the irony that gays and lesbians demand acceptance from heterosexuals yet reject it for bisexuals.

The Bi Youth Initiative continues its political, educational and social efforts and as highlighted by recent actions at the Creating Change Conference sponsored by NGLTF in Detroit in November. Questions and contributions of financial and volunteer support for the Bi Youth Initiative should be directed to BiNet USA

A Work in Progress: Brett Beemyn, Editor: An Anthology of Bisexual Men.

I first considered the idea of working on an anthology about bisexual men a couple years ago, after continually being frustrated by how few men were writing theoretical essays about bisexuality, particularly essays from a pro-feminist perspective which addressed the role that male privilege has played in their lives and in their relationships with bi women. But already working on two other books and a dissertation at the time, I was in no position to undertake another large-scale project.

This year, with those books just about done (even if the dissertation isn't), I began to think about finally pursuing such an anthology. The deciding factor was reading *Bisexual Politics* and being dismayed by the fact that less than 1/5th of the essays in this otherwise exciting and important book were by men. I knew that there had to be more bi men out there who were critically examining bisexuality and their place within the developing bisexual movement--and if there weren't, a project such as this could help get them to emerge and begin talking with each other. It is my hope that an anthology about bisexual men will be both a useful resource and will contribute to more men engaging in discussions of bisexuality.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: ARTICLES AND PERSONAL NARRATIVES, POETRY, PHOTOGRAPHS, ART

Need contributions from: Transgendered Men, FTMs, MTMs, Boychicks, Butches, Metamorphs, Gender Variant, Cross-dressers and their Significant Others, Parents, etc.

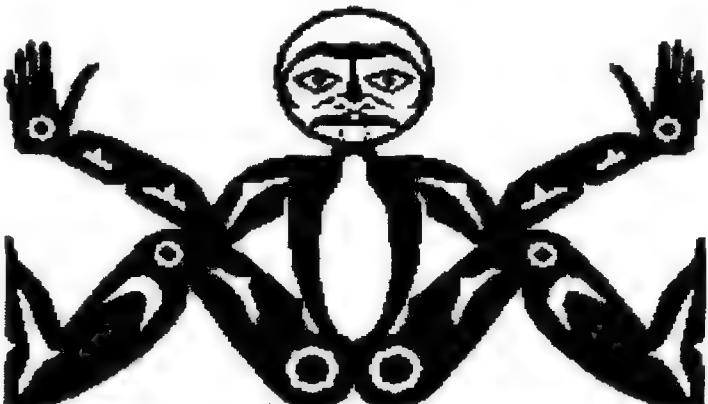
TRANSGENDERED MAN-IFESTO: A Journey of Voices, Vision, and Identity. With increased numbers of us coming out of the woodwork and forming support groups all across the world, the a number of discussion and private mailing lists on the Internet, and on the heels of the Conference of the Americas, it is abundantly clear that the time is ripe for US to tell our own stories NOW.

Suggested word length for articles and non-fiction narratives is 700-5,000 words and should be original. Reprints previous publications should be queried and must be accompanied by a copy of the contract that you signed with respect to prior publications. All manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of submission. OR can also be transmitted to via e-mail. Photographs should be black and white and MUST be accompanied by model releases. Deadline APRIL 30, 1996
Michael Hernandez at lbear@crl.com or P.O. Box 390288, Anza, CA 92539.

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS: AN ANTHOLOGY ABOUT BISEXUAL MEN

Essays are now being accepted for a collection of political, historical, and theoretical essays about bisexual men in the United States. This will be the first anthology to focus on bisexual men and the first bi book to have most of the contributors be bisexual men (essays by bisexual women which address their experiences with bisexual men will also be accepted).

Essays for the book should engage larger theoretical and/or political discourses around bisexuality and not simply be personal narratives or coming out stories. Some of the topics that could be addressed include the intersections between gender, race, class, and bisexual identities; the state of bi male activism today and suggestions for future directions; the relationship between bi men and feminism; ways that bi men can assume an active political role without usurping the power of



women (whose leadership has been one of the most positive aspects of the bisexual movement); and how bi men can counter stereotypes like the myth that they are responsible for transmitting HIV/AIDS to the larger society.

The deadline for submissions is Oct. 1. For guidelines or more information, contact Brett Beemyn, P.O. Box 584, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (SASE appreciated); 319-354-5793; brett-beemyn@uiowa.edu

About the editor: Brett Beemyn is a Ph.D. candidate in African American Studies at the University of Iowa, where he teaches classes in African American Studies and Queer Studies. He co-edited *Queer Studies: A Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender Anthology* (to be published in August by NYU Press) and edited *Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Community Studies* (to be published in 1997 by Routledge). He was also co-chair of InQueery, InTheory, InDeed: The Sixth North American Lesbian, Gay, and Bisexual Studies Conference (1994) and co-coordinator of the National Conference Celebrating Bisexuality (1993). Previously, he has been a regional delegate for BiNet U.S.A.

Untitled

Those times, when I climb the craggy ledges
and follow the broken trails to this remote
and windswept place
where loose rock at my feet
waits patiently,
patiently for the next season
the next wind, frost and rain,
and happenstance traveler to finally dislodge it --
so this loose stone may return,
may find its place,
may have time to fall,
and falls in silence,
and falls in silence,
in silence...
as I look out and away across the valley.
The valley,
filled with morning mist so dense,
that it is a river of its own.

It is here, where even wings glide in silence,
that I find her;
that I find her, and myself.

The poetry comes, not in the cowering, the fear,
nor even in the longing--but in the hoping to be.

Shl 8-6-94

Untitled 2

Under what pretext can a person
transcend gender
and be the smile, the caress
that opens the heart.
How, if I'm on the earth
and you on the moon,
could I touch your shoulder, gently
turn you around
and out of a multitude of faces
transcend gender
to share in your eyes, your smile, your frown:
the joy and the hurt
that have brought you here.

Each note, each word, each letter that you read
is like the driftwood
swaying gently out of reach.
The tide taunting.
Will you wade into the water?
From afloat, I see you reading, and I fear
that with
Each note, each word, each letter that I write,
You'll turn and walk away.

Shl

You can't trust them

"I'd never trust a bisexual,"
you said over coffee while I drank tea.
In my own way I agreed, "I wouldn't trust one either."
You can't trust them to ignore bi-hateful comments like that
one.
You can't trust them to leave you for someone of either gender.

You can't trust them to hide behind heterosexual privilege or
pass as straight.

You can't trust them to experience less discrimination than
lesbians or gays.

You can't trust them to be without community and a national
movement.

You can't trust them to be silent about bi exclusion and
misinformation.

You can't trust them to be closeted at work, at home, or in
public.

You can't trust them to be what you think they should be.
You can't trust them to be confused.

You can't trust them to be uncommitted.

You can't trust them to be oversexed.

You can't trust them not to be.

You can't trust them to stand aside while lesbian, gay and
straight scholars claim bi historical figures as their own.

You can't trust them to assimilate like good suburban queers.
You can't trust them to lie and say they're anything but
bisexual.

You can't trust them to fit uninformed, bigoted, knee-jerk
stereotypes.

"No," I said, "You really can't trust them at all."

Christopher James

Poet's
Corner

DIVERSITY: A PEOPLE OF COLOR COALITION ANNOUNCES THEIR FIRST ANNUAL CONFERENCE

KEEP YOUR HEAD TO THE SKY: QUEERS OF COLOR COMING TOGETHER.

The Purpose:

1. To develop our identity and define our needs as People Of Color.
2. To develop strategies and combine our strength as Communities of Color to combat hate, discrimination, and oppression.
3. To send out a call of action to People of Color for our future goal of a national multiracial coalition to address the issues of concern in Communities of Color.

The Date: Friday, April 19 - Sunday April 21, 1996

Location: Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

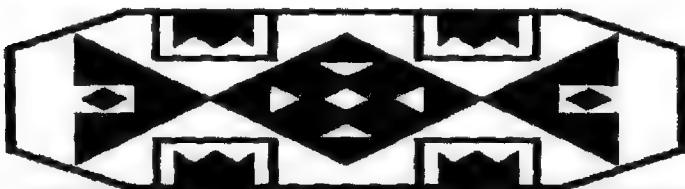
The Need:

1. A call for workshop proposals and presenters
2. Suggestions for keynote speakers and Bios. feel free to suggest yourself
3. Technoqueers to send this information everywhere
4. Possible funding sources
5. People to attend

NOTE: We are getting together to do Whatever, but ALL are welcome. However, the majority of workshops will be People of Color only spaces.

Please respect us.

For more information please contact: Diversity of Ohio, 263 Crestview Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43202, Tel 614- 486-5664. E-mail : sharifax @aol.com OR abernathy.6@ postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu



UPCOMING CONFERENCES LISTING

Feb. 10-11, 1996

California State University, Long Beach, CA

The Third Annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality

Arrangements have been made with Sea Port Marina Hotel near the campus, for a price break: Cost is \$69-\$79 per night. For more information about the hotel, call 1-800-434-8451 or (310) 434-8451 and ask for the Gibbin Services registration block.

Workshops include: Bi 101 (Am I Bi & If So, How Do I Fit This Into My Life?); Spouse and Partner Support; Men's Issues; Women's Issues; Transgender Issues; Monogamy; Polysexual Lifestyle; Safer Sex; and more. Guest speakers and facilitators include Dr. Regina Reinhardt; Lani Ka ahumanu

3rd Annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality

Contact Persons: Gary North, Coordinator, Gibbin Services (Bi Consultation Service, Conflict Resolution Service, Gibbin Publications) 7 BiNet/L.B.-O.C. P.O. Box 20917 7 Long Beach, CA 90801, 1-800-JULY DOT (1-800-585-9368) or (310) 991-2595

Carol Hass, Assistant Program Coordinator, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Resource Center 7 California State University, Long Beach, Building FO4, Room 165, 1250 Bellflower Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90840, (310) 985-4585

The third annual Southern California Conference on Bisexuality will be held Feb. 10-11, 1996, in Long Beach - just before the annual Bi Visibility Day (Feb. 14). For more information, call 1-800-585-9368). The first day of the conference - at Cal State Long Beach - is geared toward individuals, scholars, counselors, and others who wish to know more about this little-understood, much-disputed, inaccurately named and poorly studied aspect of human behavior: the capacity of one person to be sexually, sensually and/or romantically attracted to certain other individuals, some of whom may be of the same gender, opposite gender or gender minority.

The second day of the conference - at The Center/Long Beach - is for those who have become politicized by issues surrounding society's rejection of bi people and bisexuality, and who wish to do something to effect change in this regard.

Call or write for a registration form and information brochure. Cost ranges from \$20 to \$40, with some scholarships available for Cal State Long Beach students and others.

April 19 - 21, 1996

Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio

KEEP YOUR HEAD TO THE SKY: QUEERS OF COLOR COMING TOGETHER.

For more information please contact: Diversity of Ohio, 263 Crestview Rd. Columbus, Ohio 43202, Tel 614- 486-5664. E-mail : sharifax @aol.com OR abernathy.6@ postbox.acs.ohio-state.edu

May 24-27, 1996

Berlin, Germany

4th International Bisexual Conference

For more information contact: Fritz Klein, M.D., 4545 Park Blvd., #207, San Diego, CA 92116. Tel (619) 542-0088, FAX (619) 542-0066 or e-mail at fritzklein@aol.com

Classified AD Information and Guidelines

Classified Ad's are free to BiNet USA members. Rates for non-BiNet USA members are: that they become BiNet USA members so they can get a free Ad. Ad's are placed on a "as available space" basis. There are several categories to choose from: Organizations, Calls for Submissions, Pen Pals, Personals, For Sale. If your Ad does not fit one of these categories, make a suggestion. All personal information will be held in confidence, with the exception of releasing mailing address or phone number as requested as part of the Ad text.

BiNet News reserves the right to edit or reject any ad, and shall not be held responsible for any errors in publication.

Ads which contain blatantly crude or sexist language will not be accepted.

BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for claims made in any advertisement. BiNet USA and/or BiNet News is not responsible for individual actions or behavior in the placement or response to any Advertisement. So be smart when answering any advertisement.

Classifieds

Organizations

International Directory of bisexual Groups now available!!!

Edited by Robin Ochs and published by the Bisexual Resource Center, this issue has over 100 new listings and includes bisexual and lesbian/gay/bisexual groups in 18 countries and over 40 states. You can get your copy by sending \$5 to BRC, PO Box 639, Cambridge, MA 02140

Funding

The Bisexual Advisory Board of CA Institute of Contemporary Arts (C.I.C.A.) announces that grants (\$200 to \$1,500) are available for projects related to bisexuality, for example: publications, academic research, seed money for new Bi organizations, community outreach projects, etc.

Applications are accepted on a continuous basis and will be reviewed every 4 months. Send for application to: Bi Adv. Board, C.I.C.A., 4545 Park Boulevard, # 207, San Diego, CA 92116, USA

Pen Pals

Bi white male, 28, 5'9", 160#'s, brown hair and eyes. I'm an attractive, sincere, good hearted person, seeking a professional Bi white male/female long lasting relationship. Presently incarcerated and looking to be released in the near future. All responses answered. Hays Glasscock, # 707193, Kentucky State Penitentiary, PO Box 128, Eddyville, KY 42038

Bi swm, 29, 5'10", 195#'s, long brown hair and blue eyes. I'm honest, caring, non-possessive, and open-minded. If you a man or woman, and know how to smile and cry, write me. No drugs or games. Tim Sunken, # 6998060, 2605 State Street, Salem, Oregon 97310

Black male, 29, 6'1", 195 #'s, dark brown eyes. Sincerely open minded and honest, intelligent, loves sports. Seek to correspond with bi male or female. Autley Mobley, # 061269 M-3-5-13 #, Florida State Prison, PO Box 747, Starke, FL 32091

Looking to find Bi's in Hawaii to help form Bi - Maui Welcome Wagon. Write to Jor-El, 2441 S. Kihei Road (E207), Kihei - Maui, HI 96753 or call (808) 243-0336. Tourists invited to call or write as well!

Calls for Submission

Anthology of Bisexual men. Essays are now being accepted for a collection of political, historical, and theoretical essays about bisexual

men in the United States. This will be the first anthology to focus on bisexual men and the first bi book to have most of the contributors be bisexual men (essays by bisexual women which address their experiences with bisexual men will also be accepted). The deadline for submissions is Oct. 1. For guidelines or more information, contact Brett Beemyn, P.O. Box 584, Iowa City, Iowa 52244 (SASE appreciated); 319-354-5793; brett-beemyn@uiowa.edu

Essays: About Bisexual men, a project of the Portland Bisexual Alliance. We are looking for submissions from men, women, and anyone in between on the subject of bisexual men. An essay should cover only one topic and photos/poems should be centered around the subject of bisexual men. Please send your work or inquires to: Portland Bisexual Alliance, Portland, Oregon, PO Box 412, Portland, Oregon 97207, Attn. Men's Book

TRANSGENDERED MAN-IFESTO: A Journey of Voices, Vision, and Identity. Need contributions from: Transgendered Men, FTMs, MTMs, Boychicks, Butches, Metamorphs, Gender Variant, Cross-dressers and their Significant Others, Parents, etc. Suggested word length for articles and non-fiction narratives is 700-5,000 words and should be original. Reprints previous publications should be queried and must be accompanied by a copy of the contract that you signed with respect to prior publications. All manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced and include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return of submission. OR can also be transmitted to via e-mail. Photographs should be black and white and MUST be accompanied by model releases. Deadline APRIL 30, 1996 Michael Hernandez at lbear@crl.com or P.O. Box 390288, Anza, CA 92539



Sexuality runs along a continuum. It is not a static “thing,” but rather a process that can flow, changing throughout our lifetime.

Bisexuality falls along this continuum. It is the “potential for being sexually and/or romantically involved with members of any gender.”

—Robyn Ochs

BiNet USA

Oh No!!! Your Membership is Expiring!!!

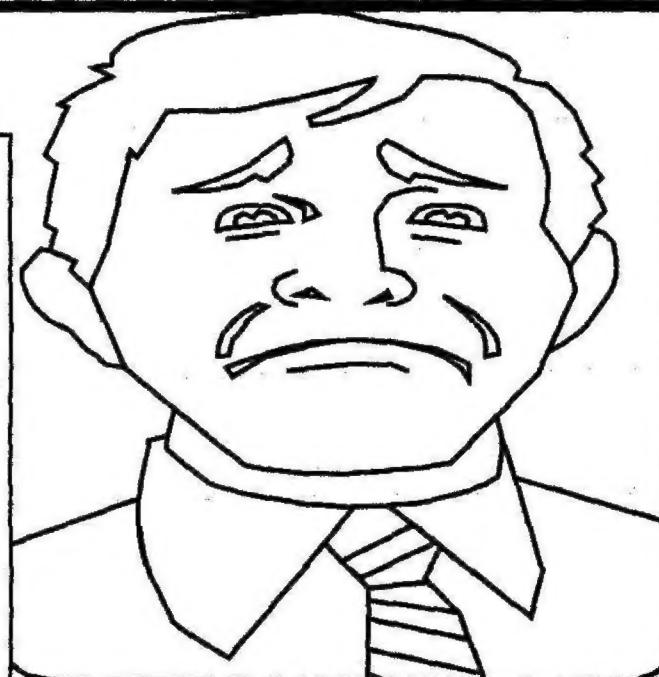
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and don't miss a
single issue of
BiNet News!!!

Having financial
hardships???

Ask for a waiver!

Remember
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are \$1 for \$1000
in yearly income.
ie. If you make
\$18,000 a year
your membership
is \$18

Send more if you
can, less if you
can't!



BiNet USA INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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Contribution Amount Enclosed:

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BiNet USA PO Box 7327 LANGLEY PARK, MD 20787-7327

"Binet News." BiNet News., winter 1996, p. [1]. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, [link.gale.com/apps/doc/LMLRYQ989261585/AHSI?](http://link.gale.com/apps/doc/LMLRYQ989261585/AHSI?u=ubcolumbia&sid=bookmark-AHSI) Accessed 30 Dec. 2024.